

Amendment to the Specification:

Please delete the paragraph on page 1, lines 4 through 6 and which follow immediately after the TITLE, and replace it with the paragraph that follows:

This application contains subject matter that is related to subject matter disclosed in copending U.S. Serial Nos. 09/925,077 (~~docket no.TI-31514~~) filed on August 8, 2001 and 10/037,179 (~~docket no. TI-31552~~) filed on October 23, 2001.

Please delete the paragraph on page 15, lines 1 through 4, and replace it with the paragraph that follows:

FIGURE 9 illustrates exemplary operations which can be performed by the embodiments of FIGURE 8. At 91, the channel fading information is obtained. The channel with the deepest fading is determined at 92, and at 93 the SISO decoder corresponding to the deepest fade is selected to begin the iterative process.